

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JWTTWINAM:CEJ

APPROVED BY P:PHABIO

NEA:ALATHERTON

S/S.:R. PERITO

DOD:LJANKA

PM/ISO:JBURGESS

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O 040108Z NOV 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 271240

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BA, US

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST FORCE AND DOD SURVEY

REF: MANAMA 1746

1. DOD IS PLANNING TO HAVE TEAM MAKE COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF BAHRAIN'S DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS IN COUNTRY AS EARLY AS NOVEMBER 15. TEAM WILL BE FUNDED BY DOD.

2. IN ON-GOING EFFORT TO PERSUADE GOB TO LIFT DEADLINE ON MIDDLE EAST FORCE, WE WISH YOU AS GENERAL RULE TO HAVE MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN DETERMINING, IN YOUR JUDGMENT, WHICH GOB LEADERS TO TALK WITH AND WHEN. IN PRESENT CASE, HOWEVER, WE ASSUME YOU STILL PREFER YOUR OWN EARLIER SUGGESTION OF USING INFORMATION ON SURVEY TEAM'S ARRIVAL AS A MEANS TO RAISE MIDDLE EAST FORCE QUESTION ONCE AGAIN WITH PRIME MINISTER. WE CONCUR IN YOUR APPROACH AND SUGGEST YOU NOT RAISE MIDDLE EAST FORCE WITH FOREIGN
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MINISTER DURING YOUR SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 4 CALL ON HIM. IF

HE SHOULD RAISE MIDDLE EAST FORCE QUESTION, YOU SHOULD
STRESS GREAT IMPORTANCE IN CONTEXT OF OUR BILATERAL RE-
LATIONS WHICH USG ATTACHES TO A GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP BY
BAHRAIN AT THIS TIME IN THE FORM OF LIFTING THE JUNE 1977
DEADLINE AND PROVIDING USG THE OPPORTUNITY TO KEEP US NAVY
SOMEWHAT LONGER IN BAHRAIN.

WHILE SURVEY WILL PROCEED IN ANY EVENT, YOU SHOULD
ENDEAVOR TO GET ACROSS THAT ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH ITS RE-
COMMENDATIONS ARE CONSIDERED WILL, OF COURSE, DEPEND ON
GOB'S WILLINGNESS TO BE HELPFUL TO US ON ISSUE TO WHICH
WE ATTACH IMPORTANCE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, SURVEYS, DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE271240
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JWTWINAM:CEJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760410-1182
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761181/aaaacrxx.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 MANAMA 1746
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIDDLE EAST FORCE AND DOD SURVEY
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, US, BA
To: MANAMA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006